



DC
COMICS™

27

THE NEW 52!

RED LANTERNS



CHARLES
SOULE

ALESSANDRO
VITTI

J.
GALAFIORE

HOT-BLOODED
MEETS
COLD-HEARTED!

MAR 2014

RATED **T+** TEEN PLUS



DCCOMICS.COM

"IMPRESSIVE."

"YOU THINK, SKALLOX?"

HOT AND COLD!

CHARLES SOULE: WRITER
ALESSANDRO VITTI (PGS 1-5, 9-13, 18) AND
J. CALAFIORE (PGS 6-8, 14-17, 19-20): ARTISTS
GABE ELTAEB: COLORS DAVE SHARPE: LETTERS
VITTI & ELTAEB: COVER CHRIS CONROY: EDITOR
MATT IDELSON: GROUP EDITOR

YES. THE TERROR
OF MY VISAGE HAS BEEN
ACCURATELY CAPTURED.
NO EASY TASK.

AGREED.
YOU ACTUALLY
LOOK WORSE THAN
YOU DO IN REAL
LIFE. THESE ARE
TRULY BRILLIANT
ARTISTS.

...
THANK...
YOU,
BLEEZ.

THEY DID A
GOOD JOB ON
ALL OF US.
WE LOOK LIKE
HOW WE
LOOK.

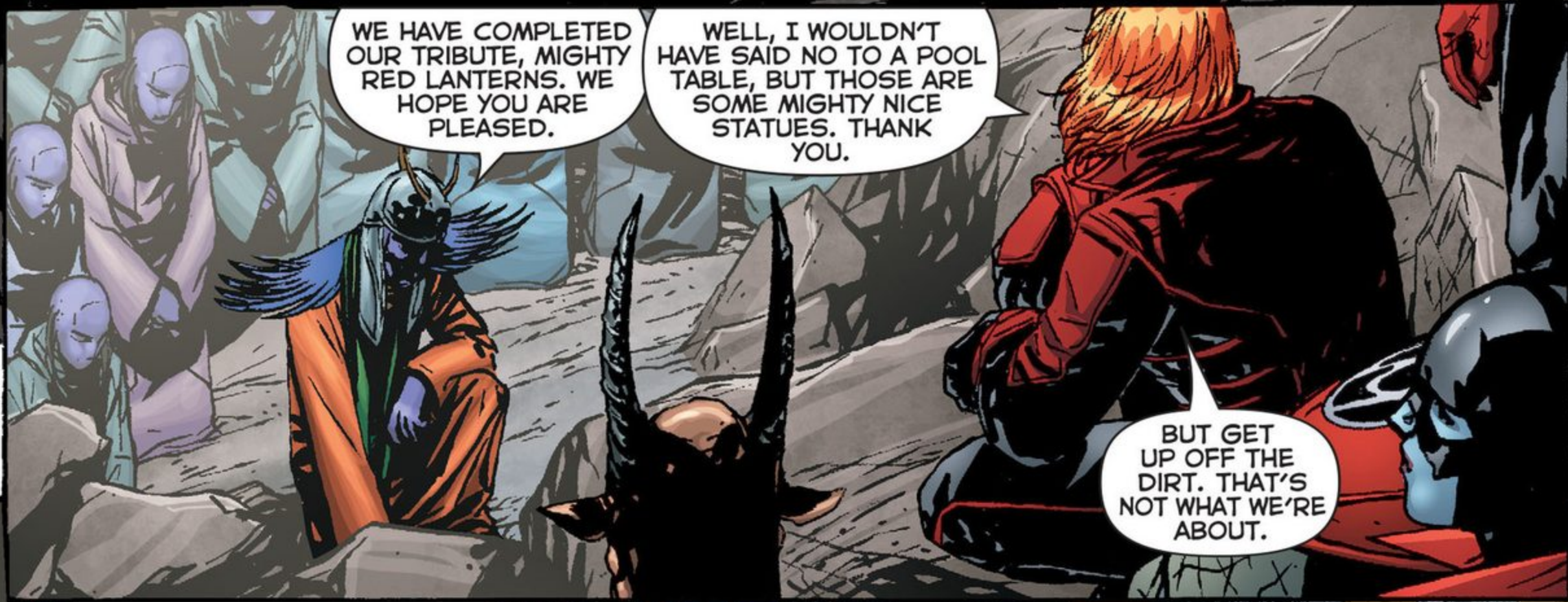
WELL,
EXCEPT
GARDNER,
I GUESS.

YEAH. BUT
THAT'S NOT
EXACTLY THEIR
FAULT.



I AIN'T GONNA ASK 'EM TO START OVER JUST BECAUSE I CHANGED MY LOOK.

THAT'D BE RUDE.



WE HAVE COMPLETED OUR TRIBUTE, MIGHTY RED LANTERNS. WE HOPE YOU ARE PLEASED.

WELL, I WOULDN'T HAVE SAID NO TO A POOL TABLE, BUT THOSE ARE SOME MIGHTY NICE STATUES. THANK YOU.

BUT GET UP OFF THE DIRT. THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE ABOUT.



YOU LOST ONE OF YOUR OWN LIBERATING US FROM GENSUI'S REIGN OF HORROR. THE MIGHTY RATCHET FELL SO THAT WE MIGHT BE FREE.

YES. NO ONE HERE HAS FORGOTTEN ABOUT RATCHET.

QUITE RIGHT. AND SO WE HONOR YOUR SACRIFICE.



GENSUI FORCED US TO BUILD STATUES OF HIM ALL OVER OUR HOME PLANET. WE HAVE TURNED THOSE SKILLS, SO CENTRAL A MARK OF OUR BONDAGE, INTO THE CREATION OF A TRIBUTE TO THOSE WHO ENDED IT.

THAT'S POETRY, MATE.

INDEED. BUT THAT IS NOT ALL WE DO TO SHOW YOU THAT WE HAVE LEARNED THE LESSONS OF THE RED LANTERNS.



WE ARE SEEKING OUT EVERY MEMBER OF GENSUI'S RACE-- EVERY LAST ONE. DIGGING THEM FROM THEIR BURROWS, BURNING THEIR REDOUBTS. BRINGING THEM TO JUSTICE-- OUR JUSTICE.

WE HAVE RETAKEN OUR HOME, WITH YOUR HELP. AND NOW THAT WE HAVE IT BACK, WE WILL NEVER LOSE IT AGAIN.

WE WILL ERASE THEM FROM THE PLANET. IT WILL BE AS IF THEY NEVER WERE.



...ERASE?

HUH. LISTEN, MY MAN. YOU KNOW WHY WE CAME TO YOUR PLANET?



WE CAME BECAUSE WE HEARD A MONSTER WAS LOOSE IN OUR SECTOR. IT'S OUR JOB TO CLEAN UP THE MONSTERS.

SO. DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO. PUT PEOPLE ON TRIAL. PUNISH THEM HOW YOU LIKE.

BUT WATCH OUT YOU DON'T TURN INTO MONSTERS.



BECAUSE THEN WE'D BE BACK FOR YOU.



WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT RATCHET.

WHAT'S THERE TO SAY? I'VE SEEN WORSE DEATHS. MUCH WORSE. HE WENT OUT THE RIGHT WAY, THOUGH. HIS WAY. HE WAS A HERO.

NOT HIM. HIS RING.

AH. RIGHT.

IT LEFT TO FIND A NEW BEARER WHEN RATCHET DIED. IT'S BEEN SOME TIME--IT'S POSSIBLE THAT IT HAS LOCATED A NEW CANDIDATE.

YOU KNOW HOW WE ARE WHEN THE RINGS FIRST FIND US--MADDENED. DANGEROUS.

"RATCHET WOULD NOT WANT HIS RING USED IN THAT WAY."

THIS ISN'T SOME IDEA TO GET YOUR OWN PET RED, IS IT, BLEEZ? I SEEM TO REMEMBER THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO DO WITH ME WHEN I FIRST GOT HERE.

NO. GARDNER, AFTER EVERYTHING, YOU STILL DO NOT TRUST ME?

MORE THAN I USED TO, BUT NOT AS MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO. WE'LL SEE HOW IT GOES, BLEEZ.

ANYWAY--YOU WANT TO GO GET RATCHET'S RING, GO FOR IT. RUNAWAY CHAINSAWS OUT IN THE UNIVERSE--THAT'S NO GOOD.

DONE, THEN. I WILL SEE YOU WHEN I RETURN.

"I SHALL FIND THE NEW BEARER OF RATCHET'S RING AND BRING HIM HERE, SO HE CAN BE BROUGHT TO REASON IN THE BLOOD LAKE."

I'M GOING TOO. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS NEW RED WILL BE LIKE. YOU MIGHT NEED HELP.

I'M SURE I CAN HANDLE IT, RANKORR.

THEN CALL IT A CHANCE TO SEE THE UNIVERSE. TURNS OUT THAT I'M SOMETHING OF AN EXPLORER AT HEART.



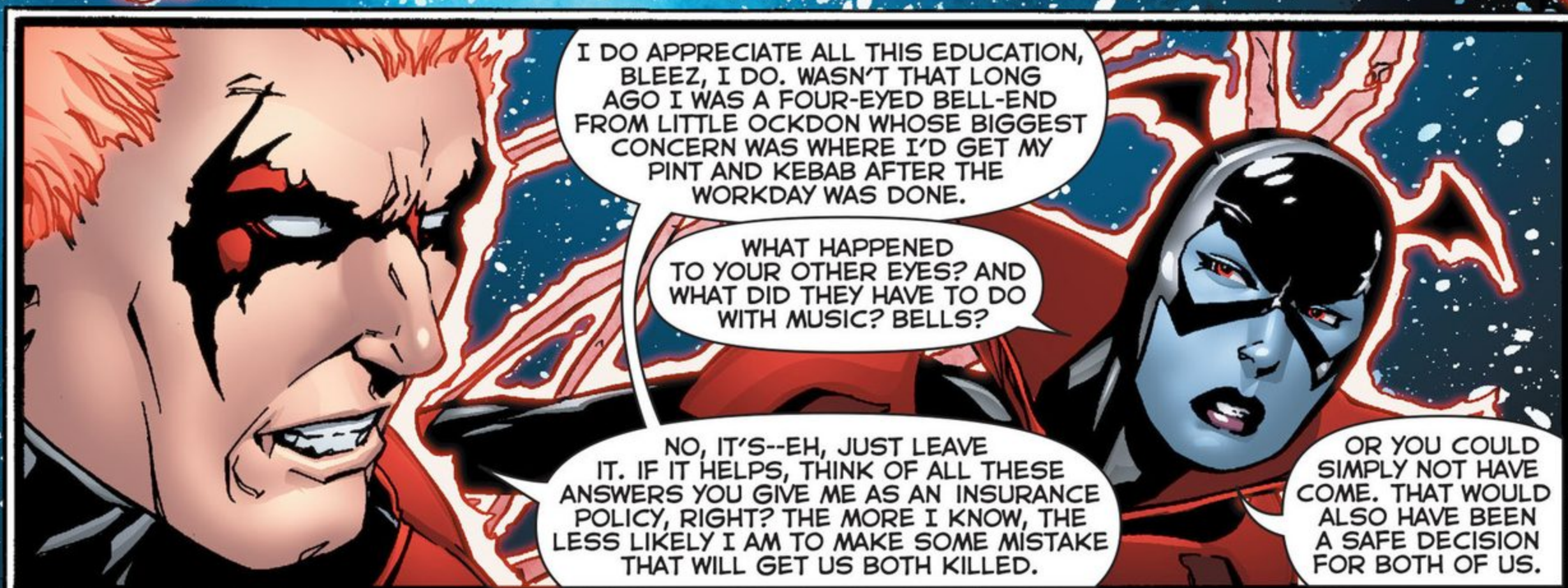




SO HOW
DO WE FIND
RATCHET'S
RING?

IF I ANSWER, DO
YOU PROMISE THAT
WILL BE YOUR LAST
QUESTION?

...
I CAN'T
PROMISE
THAT, NO.



I DO APPRECIATE ALL THIS EDUCATION,
BLEEZ, I DO. WASN'T THAT LONG
AGO I WAS A FOUR-EYED BELL-END
FROM LITTLE OCKDON WHOSE BIGGEST
CONCERN WAS WHERE I'D GET MY
PINT AND KEBAB AFTER THE
WORKDAY WAS DONE.

WHAT HAPPENED
TO YOUR OTHER EYES? AND
WHAT DID THEY HAVE TO DO
WITH MUSIC? BELLS?

NO, IT'S--EH, JUST LEAVE
IT. IF IT HELPS, THINK OF ALL THESE
ANSWERS YOU GIVE ME AS AN INSURANCE
POLICY, RIGHT? THE MORE I KNOW, THE
LESS LIKELY I AM TO MAKE SOME MISTAKE
THAT WILL GET US BOTH KILLED.

OR YOU COULD
SIMPLY NOT HAVE
COME. THAT WOULD
ALSO HAVE BEEN
A SAFE DECISION
FOR BOTH OF US.



AND MISS ALL
THIS? WITH SUCH
DELIGHTFUL COMPANY
BY MY SIDE? NOT
BLOODY LIKELY!

SO, HOW
ABOUT THAT
QUESTION,
THEN?



RINGS HAVE
SIGNATURES. I CAN
ASK MY RING TO FIND
RATCHET'S. IT'S NOT
VERY COMPLICATED,
RANKORR.

SAYS YOU,
BLEEZ. YOU ASK
ME, THINGS OUT
HERE ARE *PLENTY*
COMPLICATED.



NEITHER OF YOU GUYS HAS BEEN HERE BEFORE, RIGHT?

NOT ME.

NOR I.

OKAY. SOME GROUND RULES, THEN.

EARTH.

SPACE SECTOR 2814.

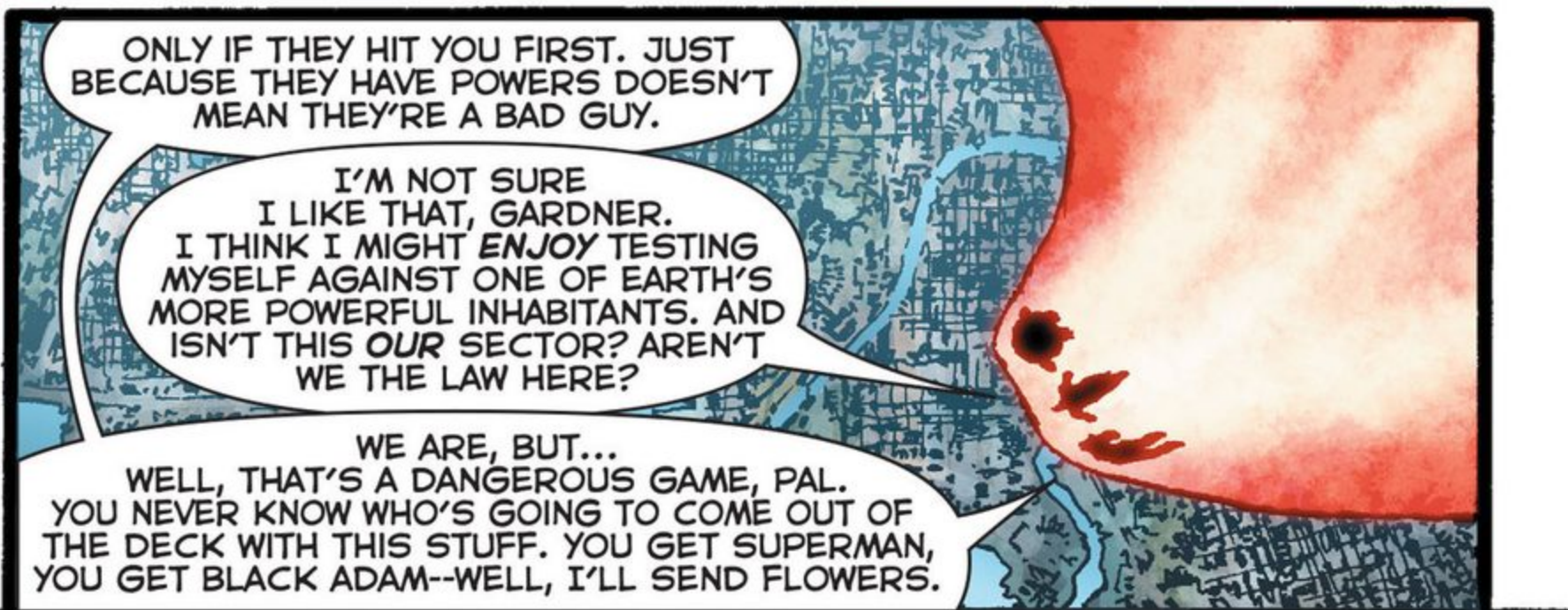


FIRST THING-- THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE THAT HAVE POWERS. DOZENS. SOME OF 'EM ARE GOOD, SOME OF 'EM ARE BAD. A LOT OF 'EM ARE DAMN STRONG. GIVE YOU A RUN FOR YOUR MONEY.

THERE ARE BILLIONS OF PEOPLE ON THIS PLANET, ALMOST ALL OF WHOM ARE WITHIN NORMAL RANGES, BUT YOU FEEL IT NECESSARY TO WARN US ABOUT JUST A HANDFUL OF THEM?

FELLA, YOU RUN INTO ONE OF THESE GUYS, YOU'LL BE GLAD I TOOK THE TIME.

OKAY, SO IF THAT HAPPENS, WHAT DO WE DO? FIGHT?



ONLY IF THEY HIT YOU FIRST. JUST BECAUSE THEY HAVE POWERS DOESN'T MEAN THEY'RE A BAD GUY.

I'M NOT SURE I LIKE THAT, GARDNER. I THINK I MIGHT ENJOY TESTING MYSELF AGAINST ONE OF EARTH'S MORE POWERFUL INHABITANTS. AND ISN'T THIS OUR SECTOR? AREN'T WE THE LAW HERE?

WE ARE, BUT... WELL, THAT'S A DANGEROUS GAME, PAL. YOU NEVER KNOW WHO'S GOING TO COME OUT OF THE DECK WITH THIS STUFF. YOU GET SUPERMAN, YOU GET BLACK ADAM--WELL, I'LL SEND FLOWERS.



AH. HERE WE ARE, FELLAS. BALTIMORE, MARYLAND. CHARM CITY ITSELF. THE PLACE THAT MADE ME WHO I AM TODAY.

A...PORT VILLAGE? THIS EXPLAINS A GREAT DEAL, GARDNER.

LISTEN, MAN--THAT'S NOT A--

WHERE ARE THE SPHERES? YOU GUYS HAVEN'T LEARNED TO MAKE BUILDINGS IN SPHERES YET? GARDNER, I DON'T WANT TO OFFEND YOU, BUT HONESTLY, THIS LOOKS PRETTY BACKWARD.



ALL RIGHT.



NORWAY.



OKAY,
GARDNER.



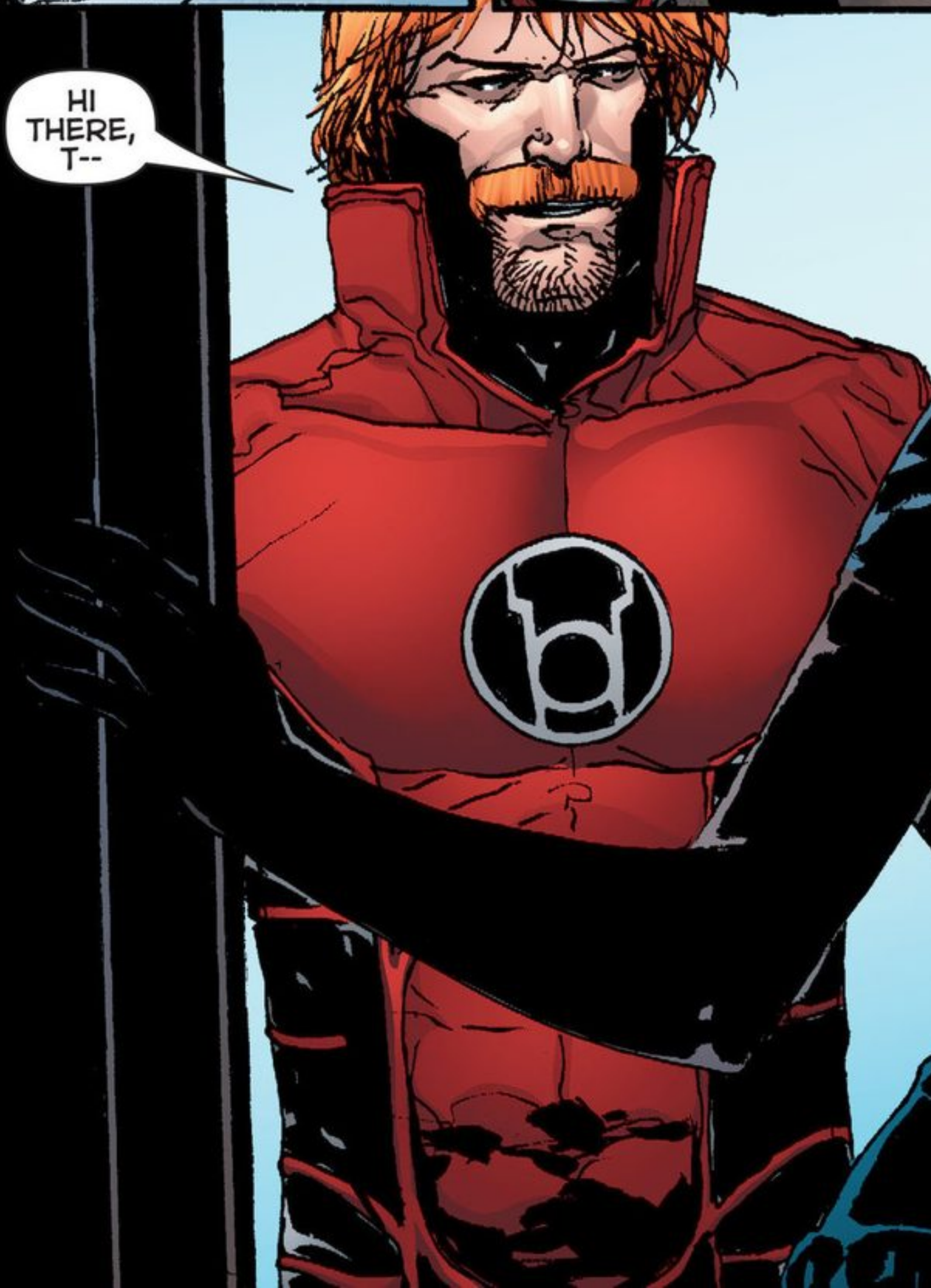
YOU KNOW
WHAT YOU WANT
TO SAY HERE. JUST
PULL IT TOGETHER
AND SAY IT.



≡WHOOOO≡



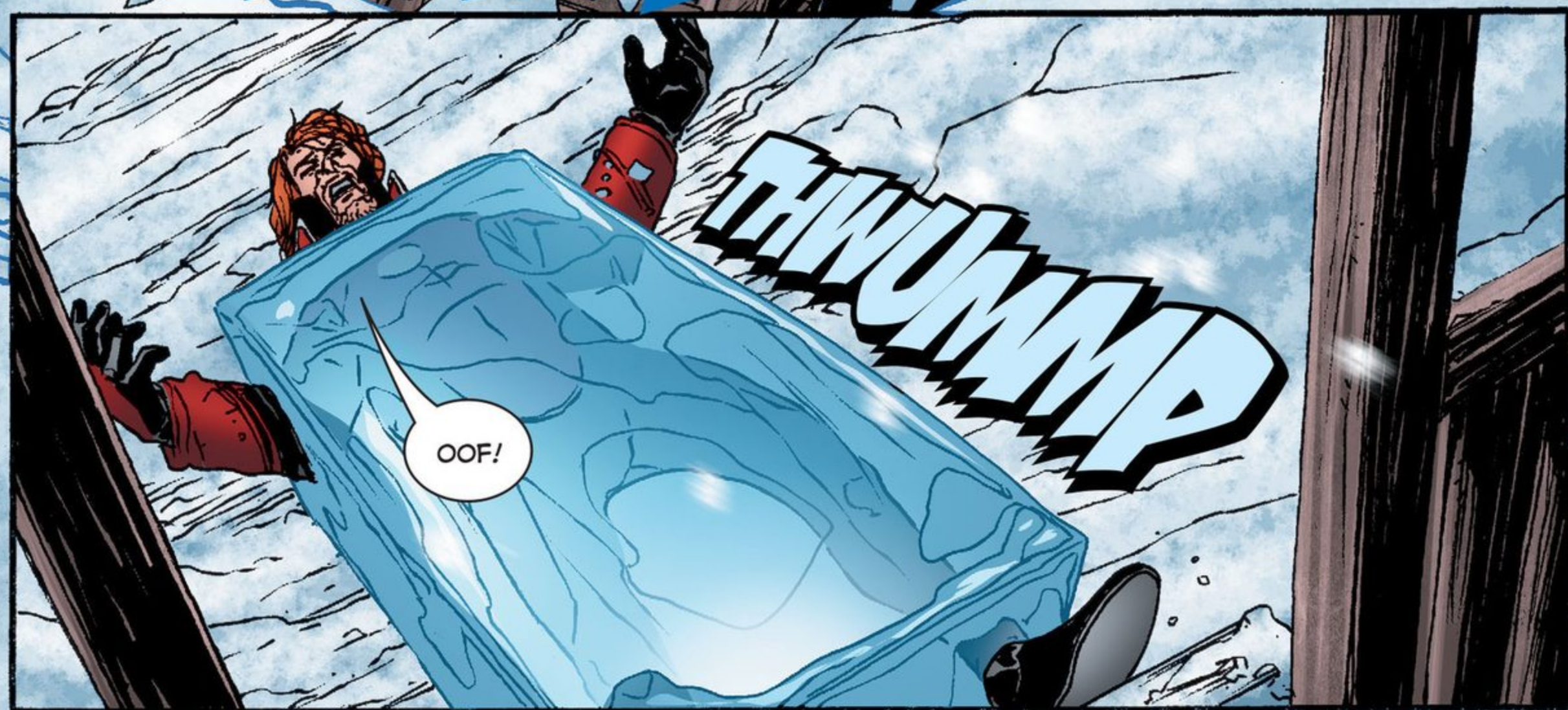
KNOCK
KNOCK

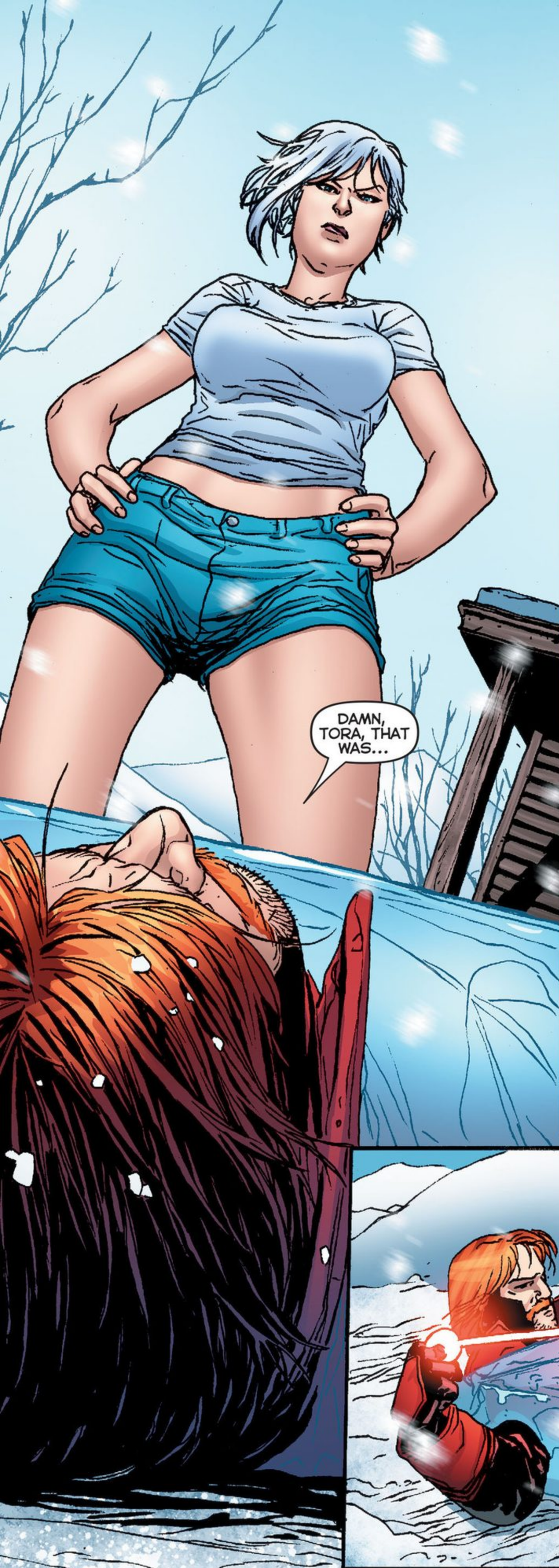


HI
THERE,
T--



OHHHHH
NO.







BRR.
CHILLY IN
HERE.

IT'S MY HOUSE,
GUY. I CAN HEAT IT,
OR NOT HEAT IT, AS
I CHOOSE.

YEAH YEAH,
I KNOW. LOOK, I
KNOW YOU DIDN'T
CALL YOURSELF ICE
AS SOME IRONY
THING, BUT THAT WAS
A PRETTY COOL
RECEPTION, EVEN
FOR YOU.

ONE MORE
SNOW PUN AND
I WILL NEVER SPEAK
TO YOU AGAIN. WHAT
ARE YOU DOING
HERE, GUY?



AND
I LIKE THE
MUSTACHE AND
THE HAIR, BUT
WHY THE NEW
LOOK?

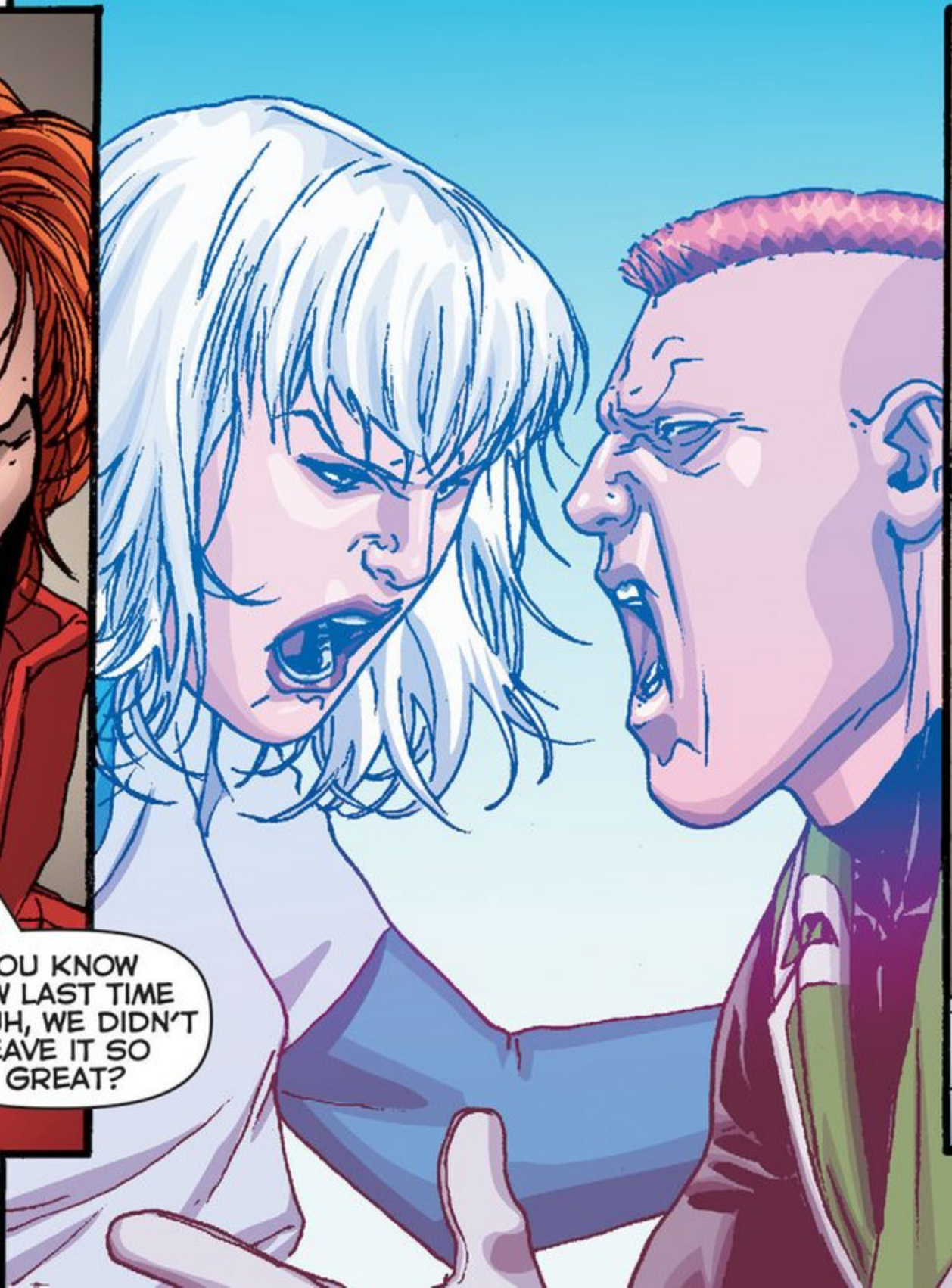
YOU
LIKE?

RED LOOKS
OKAY ON YOU--
WHICH IS FUNNY,
BECAUSE NO ONE
LOOKS GOOD IN
RED, USUALLY...
BUT WHY?



ACTUALLY,
THE COSTUME
AND EVERYTHING--
WHY I'M HERE--
IT'S ALL SORT
OF TIED UP
TOGETHER.

YOU KNOW
HOW LAST TIME
WE, UH, WE DIDN'T
LEAVE IT SO
GREAT?



I
RECALL.



YOU DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO STOP BEING ANGRY ABOUT THINGS THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ME, AND I DECIDED LIFE WAS SIMPLY TOO SHORT.

WE HAVE A SAYING HERE IN NORWAY--GAMALL KJAERLIK RUSTAR INKJE. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?

UH... NO.

OF COURSE YOU DON'T. YOU BARELY SPEAK ENGLISH. IT MEANS, "OF SOUP AND LOVE, THE FIRST IS THE BEST."



UH...DON'T KNOW THAT ONE. HERE'S ONE I DO KNOW.

JEG HAR SAVNET DEG.



OH... GUY. I'VE MISSED YOU TOO. I ADMIT IT. BUT NOTHING'S CHANGED. NOTHING'S GOING TO CHANGE.

YOU CAN'T SOLVE ALL YOUR PROBLEMS WITH A PUNCH.



THAT'S WHAT I MEAN! THAT'S WHY I DID THIS. I PUT ON A RED RING, TORA.

SO? RINGS ARE RINGS.

NO, THEY AREN'T. NOT AT ALL. GREEN RINGS ARE POWERED BY WILLPOWER. RED RINGS RUN ON RAGE. ANGER.

THIS ISN'T HELPING YOUR CASE. NOT AT ALL.



JUST LISTEN. I WANTED TO SHOW YOU--SHOW MYSELF THAT I COULD GET MY ANGER UNDER CONTROL. AND WHAT WOULD SHOW THAT MORE THAN PUTTING ON A RED RING? I MEAN, THAT'S LIKE AN ALCOHOLIC GOING SWIMMING IN A LAKE OF BEER.

I DIVED IN, BUT I DIDN'T DRINK!

YOU STOPPED DRINKING?



ERRR... NO. I STILL DO THAT. BUT THIS IS GOOD, TORA!



NEXT.

A...
HOLE?



THIS IS
THE RED SEA?
IT'S *BLUE*.

WE LIVE
NEXT TO AN
ACTUAL LAKE
OF *BLOOD*.

SERIOUSLY.

NEXT.



HMPH. VERY
GOOD FOR YOU.
WHAT'S NEXT?

THERE
WE GO!



SOMEPLACE
CALLED LAS...
AH, LAS VEGAS,
I THINK IT IS.

UGH. THIS IS
RIDICULOUS. I DON'T
CARE WHAT GARDNER
SAYS. LET'S GO FIND
SOMETHING TO
FIGHT.



PERHAPS
I CAN OBLIGE
YOU.



WHO ARE YOU?

YOU MAY CALL ME THE **SHADOW THIEF**. BUT MORE IMPORTANT-- WHO ARE YOU? YOU ARE CERTAINLY NOT FROM EARTH?

NOPE. WE'RE RED LANTERNS. WE COME FROM A PLANET CALLED YSMAULT.

OF COURSE. MY INSTINCTS NEVER FAIL ME. I CAN **SMELL** ALIENS. DISGUSTING ALIENS, POLLUTING THIS PLANET WITH THEIR PRESENCE.



YOU KNOW YOU'RE WEARING A COLARVIAN INFILTRATION SUIT? I RECOGNIZE IT. USED TO GO FOR MILLIONS ON THE DARK MARKETS. PERFECT GEAR FOR THIEVES.

AND YOUR POINT?

YOU'RE BASICALLY WEARING AN ALIEN RIGHT NOW. THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT YOU SMELL.



HEY, SO YOU'RE FROM HERE, RIGHT? FROM EARTH?

I AM. THE HOME I HAVE SWORN TO PROTECT FROM ALIEN FILTH LIKE YOU.

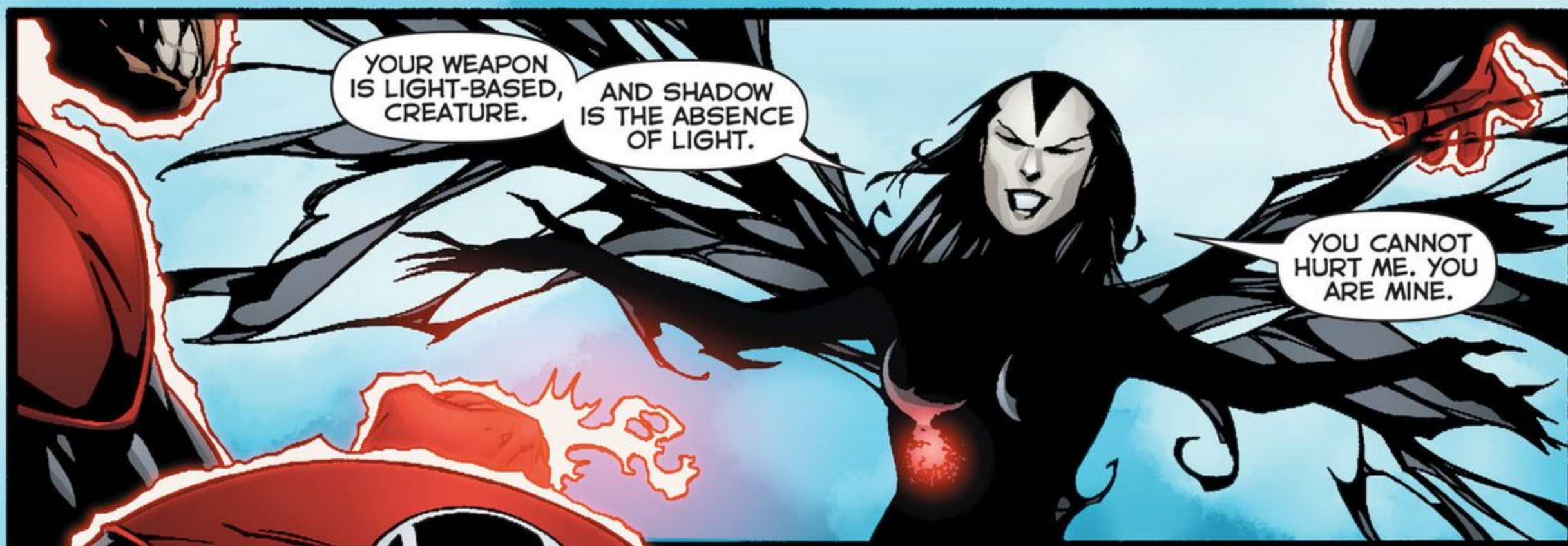
YEAH, OKAY, WHATEVER. I HAVE A QUESTION. REALLY QUICK.

...ASK, THEN.



WHAT'S A TESTICLE?





YOUR WEAPON
IS LIGHT-BASED,
CREATURE.

AND SHADOW
IS THE ABSENCE
OF LIGHT.

YOU CANNOT
HURT ME. YOU
ARE MINE.



BLAAARRRRCH

AIEEEEE!



WE'RE
REDS.
LIGHT'S NOT
OUR ONLY
WEAPON.



UH-OH.

NYYYYYAAAAA--

YOU REMEMBER THAT TIME...WE STAYED OUT TOO LATE, AND THEN, IN THE MORNING, I MADE YOU A MICHELADA, FIXED UP YOUR HANGOVER IN NO TIME, AND WE STAYED IN BED FOR THE REST OF THE DAY?

WE HAD SOME GOOD TIMES. I THINK WE COULD AGAIN.

...
OF COURSE WE COULD, GUY.
OF COURSE.

BUT I MEANT WHAT I SAID, GUY. WE ALWAYS HAVE GOOD TIMES-- THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE. THE PROBLEM IS THE *BAD* TIMES. I'M SORRY, BUT--

GARDNER!
WE NEED YOU!
WE...WE GOT INTO SOME TROUBLE.

OF COURSE YOU DID.

WHAT IS IT?

I HAVE TO GO SOLVE A PROBLEM.

BY PUNCHING IT?

NO...I... UH...

WAIT.

HOW ABOUT THIS. I *WILL* GO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM *WITHOUT* PUNCHING. I WON'T FIGHT AT ALL. YOU'LL SEE. I'VE CHANGED.

OH, GUY.

COME WITH ME. JUST WATCH.

ALL...

...RIGHT?



RATCHET'S RING IS HERE? LOOKS A BIT...

I KNOW. THIS WORLD IS UNINHABITED. A SCAN SHOWS ALMOST NO LIFE AT ALL. I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE RING WOULD HAVE FOUND...BUT IT'S HERE. THERE IS NO DOUBT.



MUST BE IN THERE.

YES.



BE CAREFUL. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'LL FIND.

DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME TWICE, LOVE.



JUST TO BE SAFE...



OH NO.



RANKORR.
BLEEZ.

DO
COME
IN.

HSSSSSSSS.

NEXT: RED ALERT!
PICK UP THE DOUBLE-SIZED
GREEN LANTERN / RED LANTERNS #28--
BOTH SERIES UNDER ONE COVER, FOR
THE PRICE OF A SINGLE ISSUE!
ON SALE NEXT WEEK!

ABANDON ALL HOPE...



...AND ENTER
INTO THE DARK



NATHAN